

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

SAINT MARY'S HOME



*Serving the elderly poor
in Chicago since 1876.*



Fall, 2014

ST. MARY'S HOME
2325 N. Lakewood Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614

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Hospitality a Way to Happiness

Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Heb. 13:2

During the upcoming “Year of Consecrated Life,” which begins in November, Pope Francis asks the Church’s religious sisters to “wake up the world” through their testimony.

The Little Sisters of the Poor speak to the world through their charism of hospitality, which at its heart is the love of the elderly poor and the desire to make them happy. The Sisters make four vows when they become members of the Congregation — chastity, poverty, obedience and hospitality.

Nowadays the term hospitality often refers to hotel or restaurant customer service as in the “hospitality industry;” it is also associated with etiquette or entertainment. And among the ancient Greeks hospitality was known as *xenia* or the guest-friend relationship. It was common for travelers limited by the mode of transportation available at that time (boat or foot) to make lengthy and extensive trips that required them to rely on others for shelter, food and protection. During that time it could be a matter of life or death, for strangers entering a foreign land were at risk of being captured or killed. We get a glimpse of this ancient time in The

Odyssey, where we see characters obliged to provide hospitality not because they wanted to but because they feared retribution from their gods if they didn’t.

We still show hospitality towards others, but it rarely means freely providing food, protection, and shelter to strangers who arrive at one’s door — unless of course you are a Little Sister of the Poor!

It is through the vow of hospitality that the Little Sisters share their joy with the elderly brothers and sisters whom they welcome into their community. This joy is contagious, touching the lives of the Residents, their families, staff and volunteers.

Recently a prospective volunteer commented on the tranquility of St. Mary’s as she toured the home. She reflected that she rarely experiences it in her normal daily life. The joy is manifested in a peacefulness that blesses everyone here.

As we celebrate our Mother Foundress St. Jeanne Jugan’s birthday on October 25, we will reflect on her words, “What happiness for us, to be a Little Sisters of the Poor! Making the poor happy is everything.”



Resident Helen Linzer fills Sr. Pauline in on the news of the day during lunch.



Sr. Caroline prays with Resident Bill Osquino during candlelight procession.

SAVE
THE
DATE



St. Jeanne Jugan’s
Birthday

Saturday, October 25

Stanford Alumni
Bulb Planting

Saturday, November 1

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Living out Christ's Call Three Little Sisters' jubilees

We had the great privilege to honor three Little Sisters who celebrated milestone anniversaries as consecrated religious. They share the same vocation, yet the ways they came to embrace it are as unique as they are.

Sr. Agathe, who has been a Little Sister for 70 years, first met the Little Sisters when she and her classmate volunteered at their home in Denver in the seventh grade. Growing up almost across the street from the Mullen Home, her mother would also attend daily Mass there. One of three girls in a family of 11 children, she remembers making friends with the elderly and feeling very much at home.

She always wanted to give her life to God and was single-minded in her pursuit and entered the order at 16 after completing high school. Her earliest memory was being at the bedside of a dying Resident. It impressed her to be with someone right before they would be seeing God.

Eventually she became a mother superior. Her first assignment was here

in Chicago. Over the decades, she served in many homes, including St. Paul, Minn. and Mobile, Ala. She also worked many years in the kitchens where she "loved spoiling everyone," but most enjoyed preparing Residents' parties.

"Be open," she advises anyone contemplating religious life. When asked if becoming a Little Sister was worth it, without any hesitation, she flashed a smile saying "yes."

The second Little Sister who also celebrated her platinum anniversary is Sr. Lucille. Growing up in Albany, New York, she too knew she wanted to be a sister at a young age but didn't quite know which order to join. Until one day when she met an elderly woman whom she helped retrieve her hat that

was blown away in the wind. The two struck up a conversation and the woman told Sr. Lucille that she lived at the Little Sisters' home nearby. When she went to visit her, she was told that no one that fit her description "lived there." This did not deter her and she ended up going back to volunteer on a regular basis. She felt that this was how the Lord was showing her where she belonged. About a year later, she entered the Little



Sisters and friends Sr. Agathe and Sr. Lucille.

Sisters in her hometown and after making her final vows her first assignment was in New Orleans.

Celebrating her 25th year and also from New York is Sr. Mary, who entered the order after a 25-year career as a public school teacher in East Harlem. Having had no prior thought of becoming a sister, she believes the Lord began calling her through her life's circumstances. Her mother's passing ten years earlier brought her into a closer relationship with God, which continued to deepen as she spent time biking, hiking and enjoying nature. In her early forties, she joined the Franciscan third order and after hearing a Little Sister speak at her parish in Queens, she decided to visit the home and volunteer.

Although she did not feel at home with the elderly at first, she came to realize that she was continuing to be with the poor and that the human needs of children and senior adults – honor, respect and security – were the same. During her discernment she asked her spiritual director about her decision and he reassuringly said that "You are never too old."

Her advice to anyone discerning a vocation be it marriage or religious life is to "listen to the Holy Spirit" so that He can lead you to where you should go.



Sr. Mary renews her vows.



News in Jugan Terrace

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall,"
Jordan Baker, *The Great Gatsby*.

By: Angie Salinas, Jugan Terrace manager

October is a perfect time for change, especially here at the Terrace. For one, we began our new recycling program with the help of our housekeeping manager. He arranged convenient deposit stations throughout the building for easy disposal and met with us to explain the process. So while the leaves begin to turn colors, we are staying "green" as we do our part to be better stewards of our resources by saving money and helping in our small way to reduce landfill waste.

The timing and implementation for this program fit in perfectly with a drive initiated by our Resident Roy Joel to collect gently used pots and pans; dishes, Tupperware and the like to pass on to the less fortunate. Actually for the last 31 years, Roy has been volunteering with San Antonio de Claret, an orphanage and nursing home in one of the poorest parts of the Dominican

Republic, by bringing much needed items to the home and staff (you can learn more about Roy's work on our website).

Sr. Agathe, the "Ambassador of the Sisters," continued their kindness by going door to door to personally thank each of our Residents as she said, "in gratitude for the donations given for the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor" this visit included gifts of M&M candies, which everyone loved. Sr. Agathe, who is 90 years young and so full of life, was accompanied by Residents Virginia Barlow and Serena Rodrigues, who helped her distribute the goodies to everyone.

And finally, we were particularly happy with the installation of the new handicap accessible doors (which were very much needed). Folks that use wheelchairs and walkers can now visit St. Mary's home for meals and activities with much greater ease.



Roy sorts through his neighbors donations as he packs for next mission.



Resident Profile – Edith Heath

Edith, who prefers to be called "Edie," Heath has lived in Chicago for most of her life, excluding her freshman and sophomore years of high school when her family briefly relocated to Carlisle in southern Indiana. She graduated from Senn High School in Edgewater and took college courses at DePaul University. During that time she joined one of her two older sisters in converting to the Catholic Church. Since the age of 19, her faith has remained very important to her.

Edie spent most of her career working as a secretary for several sales companies and never married. She also had a long history of volunteering. One of her cherished roles was accompanying mentally challenged adults on walks and bringing them to Mass on Sundays.

Warm and friendly, Edie continues to "give back" and is happy to transport a fellow Resident in a wheelchair to and from the dining rooms and chapel.

At St. Mary's she is able to go to daily Mass and pray with the Sisters regularly, which she enjoys and feels blessed to live in a community that supports her faith.

"One of the amenities of St. Mary's Home is the delicious fresh soups that the Sisters serve for dinner," explained Edie. "I also enjoy the variety of activities and the home's close proximity to the CTA bus and train routes so that I can continue to visit my friends."

It's only been a couple of months now but Edie has already made some wonderful new friends.

She continues to express her gratitude saying, "I couldn't be happier or in a better place."

Mother's Message

By: Mother Marcel Joseph



"The Homecoming"

A favorite song of many today is "God is Good All the Time," and that well describes the song in my heart!

I can't say that leaving Mobile wasn't hard, however in the same breath I can only proclaim it was God's love and grace that brought me back to Chicago, a home so dear to my heart!

Our beautiful Residents, devoted employees and wonderful community have continually brought an "abundant joy."

It's nothing short of the "hundred fold" promised those who follow Jesus Christ! "What happiness to be a Little Sister of the Poor!"

How could I not sing, (with my life) "God is Good all the time!"

Thanks to y'all at St. Mary's for putting a "Song of Praise in this Heart of Mine!"

Mother Marcel and Resident Council President Bob Riley.

Maintenance Update

By Steve Bushor, maintenance engineer

As a homeowner I anticipate ongoing projects and repairs just like everyone else. It is the same at St. Mary's, except this home and our family is much larger.

Our team of five work fulltime to make sure that our building meets Federal, State and City codes and that our Residents are safe and comfortable. Our "honey do" list has a variety of small to large projects that include installing a nurse call system and purchasing the new air chiller and our ongoing tuck-pointing of the building. We are able to accomplish these necessary projects only through the help of our generous benefactors and donors.

One of the projects we need to address as soon as possible is to retrofit our elevators with a recall system. This equipment will connect the elevators to

the fire alarm and instantly send them to the ground floor if an alarm should ever sound. An additional safety feature includes the ability to lock the elevators in place to prevent Residents and staff from taking them to an unsafe floor and would also block smoke from traveling up the elevator shaft.

St. Mary's has maintained a 5-star overall rating (the highest possible) from the Department of Public Health for more than 10 years in a row. Thank you for helping us respond to the updates in safety and fire code requirements over the years.

Please consider assisting the Sisters to obtain the necessary funding to complete this \$135,000 capital project.

It's for a good cause!



Steve Bushor assists Resident Maria Ernst, as they exit an elevator in need of the recall system.



Dear Sisters,

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____ to support your important projects to benefit the deserving Residents of St. Mary's Home.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Donations can also be made online at www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org and click "donate."